

Message Text

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16

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 SCI-06 EB-11 COME-00

FEA-02 CEQ-02 INT-08 SAB-01 SAM-01 AID-20 CEA-02

CIAE-00 EA-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 OPIC-12

SP-03 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 SWF-02 OMB-01

DRC-01 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01

SS-20 USIA-15 /225 W

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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6680

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

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AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, SP, IS, TS, MO, AG, EEC

SUBJECT: EC MEDITERRANEAN POLICY

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REF: EC BRUSSELS 1352

1. SUMMARY: THE DISCUSSION OF MEDITERRANEAN POLICY AT THE EC COUNCIL MEETING APRIL 1-2 WAS INCONCLUSIVE. PREVIOUSLY REPORTED OUTSTANDING ISSUES REMAIN UNRESOLVED. THE UK RE-EXAMINATION OF ITS COMMUNITY POLICY AND THE FORTHCOMING PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION IN FRANCE WILL INEVITABLY LEAD TO FURTHER DELAYS IN THE PREPARATION OF NEW MANDATES FOR NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE MAGHREB, SPAIN AND ISRAEL. END SUMMARY.

2. THE DISCUSSION OF MEDITERRANEAN POLICY AT THE APRIL 1-2 EC COUNCIL MEETING PRODUCED LITTLE MOVEMENT TOWARD THE PREPARATION OF NEW NEGOTIATING MANDATES. THE DUTCH DID LIFT THEIR RESERVE WITH REGARD TO HIGHER IMPORT CEILINGS FOR REFINED PETROLEUM PRODUCTS COMING FROM ALGERIA AND TUNISIA, BUT IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THE NETHERLANDS WILL APPROVE A NEW MANDATE SO LONG AS IT REMAINS SUBJECT TO AN ARAB OIL BOYCOTT.

3. THE UK MAINTAINED A GENERAL RESERVE ON MEDITERRANEAN POLICY RELATED TO THREE POINTS: A) TRADE--THE UK IS INSISTING THAT THE MEDITERRANEAN AGREEMENTS NOT RESULT IN HIGHER UK IMPORT DUTIES; B) FINANCIAL COOPERATION--THE UK HAS UNDER REVIEW THE FINANCIAL CONSEQUENCES OF FINANCIAL AID TO THE MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES; AND C) EMPLOYMENT OF FOREIGN WORKERS--THE UK HAS RESERVATIONS ABOUT PROPOSED SOCIAL BENEFITS AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT FOR FOREIGN (NON-EC) WORKERS. (THE GERMANS HAVE SIMILAR RESERVATIONS).

4. THE GERMANS TELL US THAT THEY STILL HOPE TO PRESENT A COMPROMISE TO THE OTHER MEMBER STATES WHICH COVERS THE REMAINING OUTSTANDING ISSUES. THEY DO NOT INTEND TO TABLE IT UNTIL THEY ARE SURE THAT IT HAS A GOOD CHANCE TO BE ACCEPTED. THEY ARE SKEPTICAL ABOUT MUCH PROGRESS AT THE MAY 7 COUNCIL MEETING. THE CURRENT UK GOVERNMENT REVIEW OF ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE COMMUNITY, TOGETHER WITH THE IMPENDING FRENCH PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION, LEAD THE GERMANS AND MOST OTHER OBSERVERS HERE TO BELIEVE THAT THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY FOR REACHING A COMPROMISE ON A NEW MANDATE IS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LIKELY TO BE IN EARLY JUNE. SUCH A SCENARIO MIGHT LEAD TO THE OPENING OF NEW NEGOTIATIONS BEFORE THE SUMMER BREAK BUT FINAL AGREEMENT WOULD LIKELY NOT COME UNTIL THE AUTUMN.
GREENWALD

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